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Jeffrey Wilson

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EXAMINER

BROOKS, SHANNON

ART UNIT

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/524,961	Applicant(s) WILSON, JEFFREY	
	Examiner SHANNON R. BROOKS	Art Unit 2617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 March 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15, 19-35 and 39-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15, 19-35 and 39-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 September 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 3/6/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The argued features, i.e., means operable to support execution of one or more messaging applications, wherein an application may be executed for each of any or all messages that arrive at the apparatus in a mobile originated format; means for storing message attributes matched to respective messaging applications; means for comparing, for each message, an attribute of that message with the stored message attributes, and operable thereby to select the respective messaging application on the basis of the comparison; and means for executing the selected messaging application, execution of the selected application including processing, transforming and/or routing the respective message.

Bennett is discussing methods for facilitating communication among a plurality of different telecommunications systems. Communications from a sending network are forwarded to a server that places the communications in a format acceptable to a second receiving network. The server maps an incoming message into a variety of formats in accordance with a format acceptable by a receiving network. Communications may include short messages service (SMS) messages in which the sending and receiving telecommunications systems each have different routing information, such as different electronic addressing formats. Bennett

teaches three users sending mobile originating (MO) messages over the Web, by WAP phone, and by MO SMS phone across the network to an end user (Fig. 1, and [0019]-[0025]).

Therefore, Bennett clearly meets the claim limitation of “means operable to support execution of one or more messaging applications, wherein an application may be executed for each of any or all messages that arrive at the apparatus in a mobile originated format.” Bennet clearly teaches a server that applies different formats and mappings to messages that use different networks and protocols. Therefore, Bennett clearly teaches “means for storing message attributes matched to respective messaging applications”. Bennett teaches a server that acts as a broker, translator, or reformatter of messages for different network types. Therefore, Bennett clearly teaches “means for comparing, for each message, an attribute of that message with the stored message attributes, and operable thereby to select the respective messaging application on the basis of the comparison”. Bennett discusses executing applications that transform voice to e-mail or e-mail to voice and sending the results to destinations. Therefore, Bennett clearly teaches “means for executing the selected messaging application, execution of the selected application including processing, transforming and/or routing the respective message.”

The Applicant has argued that the MO messages of Bennett are different from the MO messages of the Applicant because the Applicant, in contrast to Bennett, teaches MO messages that arrive in the MO path at the apparatus in MO format. However, it should be noted that the Examiner has applied the broadest, most reasonable interpretation to the term, “mobile originating (MO) message.” The broadest, most reasonable interpretation was applied because the applicant does not provide a definition in the specification. **Note, that the applicant admits that a definition has not been provided in the specification.** The Applicant discusses MO messages in [0010],

[0031], [0115], [183], and [197] and nowhere does the Applicant state that MO messages are messages that have not previously passed through an SMSC providing a store-and-forward function for the network, a definition provided by the Applicant in later remarks. The Examiner interpreted a MO message as a message that originates at the mobile and is sent toward the network. Additionally, the Applicant discusses mobile termination (MT) messages in [0011], [0031], [0115], and [0197] and nowhere does the Applicant state that MT messages are created when the central server is arranged to receive messages from Short Message Service Centers (SMSCs) which provide message store and forward functions for the attached mobile networks, a definition provided in later remarks. The Examiner has interpreted a MT message as a message that comes from the network to the user. Again, the Examiner has applied the broadest, most reasonable interpretation to the term, "MT message". The Applicant has argued that the meaning of a mobile originating (MO) and a mobile terminating (MT) message are well known in the art and that therefore, the rejections should be withdrawn. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. MO and MT messages exist in diverse arts. The Examiner feels that the Applicant's definitions of MO and MT messages are very specific and therefore should be provided in the specification.

Further, Bennett, Allison, McCann, and Khello, alone or in combination, read upon the argued limitations as discussed above and read on the argued limitations as set forth in the following office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

4. **Claims 1-5, 7-8, 10, 12-15, 21-25, 27-28, 30, 32-35, and 41-42** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bennett (US 2002/0112041 A1) in view of Allison (US 2003/0083078 A1).

Consider **Claim 1**, Bennet teaches telecommunications services apparatus for use with a telephone network, the apparatus comprising: means operable to support execution of one or more messaging applications, wherein an application may be executed for each of any or all messages that arrive at the apparatus (**Pg. 5, [0062]**) in a mobile originated format (**Fig. 1, item 16 and Pg. 2, [0019]-[0024]**); means for storing message attributes (**read as server, Pg. 5, [0062]**) matched to respective messaging applications (**read as different types of sources for**

message creation, Pg. 5, [0062] and Pg. 5, [0069]]; means for comparing, for each message, an attribute of that message with the stored message attributes, and operable thereby to select the respective messaging application on the basis of the comparison (**read as broker, translator, or reformatter, Pg. 5, [0062]**); and means for executing the selected messaging application, execution of the selected application including processing, transforming (**read as voice-to-email or email-to-voice**) and/or routing the respective message (**Pg. 4, [0050]-[0052]**).

Bennett does not specifically and definitively teach an attribute. However, Allison teaches an attribute (**Pg. 2, [0016]**).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of Allison into Bennet to aid in the identification of a sending or receiving party (**Pg. 2, [0016]**).

Consider **Claim 21**, Bennett teaches a telecommunications services method for a telephone network, the method comprising: supporting execution of one or more messaging applications, wherein an application may be executed for each of any or all input messages (**Pg. 5, [0062]**) received in a mobile originated format (**Fig. 1, item 16 and Pg. 2, [0019]-[0024]**); storing message **attributes (read as stored in server, Pg. 5, [0062])** matched to respective messaging applications (**read as different types of sources for message creation, Pg. 5, [0062] and Pg. 5, [0069]**); comparing, for each message, an attribute of that message with the stored message attributes, and thereby selecting the respective messaging application on the basis of the comparison (**read as broker, translator, or reformatter, Pg. 5, [0062]**); and executing the selected messaging application, execution of the selected application including processing, transforming (**read as voice-to-email or email-to-voice**) and/or routing the respective message

(Pg. 4, [0050]-[0052]).

Bennett does not specifically and definitively teach an attribute. However, Allison teaches an attribute **(Pg. 2, [0016]).**

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of Allison into Bennet to aid in the identification of a sending or receiving party **(Pg. 2, [0016]).**

Consider **Claim 2**, Bennett teaches apparatus, wherein the message attributes include destination address **(Pg. 3, [0032] and [0047, and Pg. 4, [0049] and [0057]).**

Consider **Claim 3**, Bennett teaches apparatus, wherein the message attributes include destination address type **(Pg. 3, [0040] and [0043], Pg. 4, [0057], Pg. 5, [0062], and Pg. 5, Table 1).**

Consider **Claim 4**, Bennett teaches apparatus, wherein the message attributes include originating address **(Pg. 4, [0052] and Pg. 8, [0094]).**

Consider **Claim 5**, Bennett teaches apparatus, wherein the message attributes include originating address type **(read as MIN, phone number, or email address, Pg. 4, [0052] and Pg. 8, [0094, and Pg. 5, [0062] and Table 1).**

Consider **Claim 7**, Bennett teaches apparatus, wherein the message attributes include message content **(Pg. 7, [0086]-[0087]).**

Consider **Claim 8**, Bennett teaches apparatus, comprising at least one SMS router for routing messages to the means operable to support execution of one or more messaging applications **(Fig. 1, Blocks 18 and 26c).**

Consider **Claim 10**, Bennett teaches apparatus, comprising a message transformation

means for parsing, interpreting and transforming message content and addressing in order to generate a response message (**Pg. 4, [0050]-[0052] and Pg. 5, [0062] and [0069]**).

Consider **Claim 12**, Bennet teaches apparatus, wherein the response message is routed via the SMS router (**read as server 24, Pg. 5, [0062]**).

Consider **Claim 13**, Bennett teaches apparatus, wherein the response message is in mobile terminated form (**read as a received message from the network, Pg. 2, [0025]**).

Consider **Claim 14**, Bennet teaches apparatus, wherein the response message is routed over a data network (**Pg. 2, [0025] and Pg. 4, [0053]**).

Consider **Claim 15**, Bennett teaches apparatus, wherein the message transformation means is operable to return a response message back to the original sender without requiring a routing query to a home location register (HLR), the response addressing and routing information being derived from the original message (**Pg. 5, [0069]**).

Consider **Claim 22**, Bennett teaches a method according to claim 21, wherein the message attributes include destination address (**Pg. 3, [0032] and [0047], and Pg. 4, [0049] and [0057]**).

. Consider **Claim 23**, Bennett teaches a method according to claim 21, wherein the message attributes include destination address type (**Pg. 3, [0040] and [0043], Pg. 4, [0057], Pg. 5, [0062], and Pg. 5, Table 1**).

Consider **Claim 24**, Bennett teaches a method according to claim 21, wherein the message attributes include originating address (**Pg. 4, [0052] and Pg. 8, [0094]**).

Consider **Claim 25**, Bennett teaches a method according to claim 21, wherein the message attributes include originating address type type (**read as MIN, phone number, or**

email address, Pg. 4, [0052] and Pg. 8, [0094, and Pg. 5, [0062] and Table 1].

Consider **Claim 27**, Bennett teaches a method, wherein the message attributes include message content (**Pg. 7, [0086]-[0087]**).

Consider **Claim 28**, Bennett teaches a method according to claim 21, including routing messages via at least one SMS router for execution of one or more messaging applications (**Fig. 1, Blocks 18 and 26c**).

Consider **Claim 30**, Bennett teaches a method according to claim 21, comprising a message transformation step for parsing, interpreting and transforming message content and addressing in order to generate a response message (**Pg. 4, [0050]-[0052] and Pg. 5, [0062] and [0069]**).

Consider **Claim 32**, Bennett teaches a method, wherein the response message is routed via the SMS router (**read as server 24, Pg. 5, [0062]**).

Consider **Claim 33**, Bennett teaches a method according to claim 30, wherein the response message is in mobile terminated form (**read as a received message from the network, Pg. 2, [0025]**).

Consider **Claim 34**, Bennett teaches a method, wherein the response message is routed over a data network (**Pg. 2, [0025] and Pg. 4, [0053]**).

Consider **Claim 35**, Bennett teaches a method according to claim 30, wherein the message transformation step is operable to return a response message back to the original sender without requiring a routing query to a home location register (HLR), the response addressing and routing information being derived from the original message (**Pg. 5, [0069]**).

Consider **Claim 41**, Bennett teaches a computer program for implementing a method

according to claim 21 (**Fig. 1a**).

Consider **Claim 42**, Bennet teaches a storage medium storing a computer program according to claim 41 (**Fig. 1a**).

5. **Claims 6, 11, 19-20, 26, 31, and 39-40** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bennett (US 2002/0112041 A1) in view of Allison (US 2003/0083078 A1) and further in view of McCann (US 2001/0029182 A1).

Consider **Claim 6**, Bennett teaches apparatus, except that it does not specifically teach the apparatus wherein the message attributes include signaling fields.

However, McCann teaches the apparatus wherein the message attributes include signaling fields (**Pg. 8, [0069]**).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of McCann into Bennett in order to aid in processing (**Pg. 8, [0069]**).

Consider **Claim 11**, Bennett teaches apparatus, except that it does not specifically teach the apparatus wherein the response message is generated according to a programmable table of exceptions.

However, McCann teaches the apparatus wherein the response message is generated according to a programmable table of exceptions (**Pg. 8, [0069]**).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of McCann into Bennett in order to aid in the processing of signaling messages (**Pg. 8, [0069]**).

Consider **Claim 19**, Bennett teaches apparatus, except that it does not specifically teach the apparatus wherein the routing query is an SRI-SM MAP message.

However, McCann teaches the apparatus wherein the routing query is an SRI-SM MAP message (**Pg. 4, [0042] and Fig. 13**).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of McCann into Bennett in order to determine if access to the requested node is actually necessary (**Pg. 10, [0085]**).

Consider **Claim 20**, Bennett teaches apparatus, except that it does not specifically teach the apparatus wherein the routing information obtained from the original message is in the form of an international mobile subscriber identifier (IMSI) and a visitor location register (VLR) address corresponding to the sender's location.

However, McCann teaches the apparatus wherein the routing information obtained from the original message is in the form of an international mobile subscriber identifier (IMSI) and a visitor location register (VLR) address corresponding to the sender's location (**Pg. 6, [0054]**).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of McCann into Bennett in order to facilitate directing signaling messages (**Pg. 6, [0054]**).

Consider **Claim 26**, Bennett teaches a method, except that it does not specifically teach a method wherein the message attributes include signalling fields.

However, McCann teaches a method wherein the message attributes include signaling fields (**Pg. 8, [0069]**).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of McCann into Bennett in order to aid in processing (**Pg. 8, [0069]**).

Consider **Claim 31**, Bennett teaches a method, except that it does not specifically teach a method wherein the response message is generated according to a programmable table of exceptions.

However, McCann teaches the method wherein the response message is generated according to a programmable table of exceptions (**Pg. 8, [0069]**).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of McCann into Bennett in order to aid in the processing of signaling messages (**Pg. 8, [0069]**).

Consider **Claim 39**, Bennett teaches a method, except that it does not specifically teach a method wherein the routing query is an SRI-SM MAP message.

However, McCann teaches the method wherein the routing query is an SRI-SM MAP message (**Pg. 4, [0042] and Fig. 13**).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of McCann into Bennett in order to determine if access to the requested node is actually necessary (Pg. 10, [0085]).

Consider **Claim 40**, Bennett teaches a method, except that it does not specifically teach a method wherein the routing information obtained from the original message is in the form of an international mobile subscriber identifier (IMSI) and a visitor location register (VLR) address corresponding to the sender's location.

However, McCann teaches the method wherein the routing information obtained from the

original message is in the form of an international mobile subscriber identifier (IMSI) and a visitor location register (VLR) address corresponding to the sender's location (**Pg. 6, [0054]**).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of McCann into Bennett in order to facilitate directing signaling messages (**Pg. 6, [0054]**).

6. **Claims 9, and 29** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bennett (US 2002/0112041 A1) in view of Allison (US 2003/0083078 A1) and further in view of Khello (US 7027582 B2).

Consider **Claim 9**, Bennett teaches apparatus, except that it does not specifically teach an apparatus including an SMS service control point (SCP) such that service logic may operate in the SMS router in conjunction with centralised intelligence in the SMS SCP.

However, Khello teaches teach an apparatus including an SMS service control point (SCP) such that service logic may operate in the SMS router in conjunction with centralised intelligence in the SMS SCP (**Col. 7, lines 37-57**).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of Khello into Bennett in order to provide an intelligent network trigger (**Col. 7, lines 37-57**).

Consider **Claim 29**, Bennett teaches a method, except that it does not specifically teach a method wherein service logic may operate in the SMS router in conjunction with centralised intelligence in an SMS service control point (SCP).

However, Khello teaches a method wherein service logic may operate in the SMS router in conjunction with centralised intelligence in the SMS SCP (**Col. 7, lines 37-57**).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of Khello into Bennett in order to provide an intelligent network trigger (**Col. 7, lines 37-57**).

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any response to this Office Action should be **faxed to (571) 273-8300 or mailed to:**

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shannon Brooks whose telephone number is (571) 270-1115. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nick Corsaro can be reached on (571) 272-7876. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Shannon R. Brooks/

Examiner, Art Unit 2617

Shannon R. Brooks

April 17, 2008

Application/Control Number: 10/524,961
Art Unit: 4181

Page 16

/Nick Corsaro/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2617